

William Carey College
P.O. Box 405
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401
January 6, 1971

Dear Hal,

Your great letter of the 3rd has just come in and I am responding immediately. I apologize for not having called or written, and I certainly hope this did not inconvenience you or your wife in any way. The closer to the time to get up there, the more impossible it became. The mails are clogged, as you say, due to RR strike and then Christmas rush, but I think they are settling back to normal sorry service. The tape was very late in getting to you, having been mailed the first of December. At any rate, I decided it would probably be best to wait until after the holidays, after you'd heard the tape, to write, in order to avoid any further confusion.

I don't think I mentioned this before, but I am presently working on a case down in Biloxi of Sgt. Roger Hearn, who had applied for a conscientious objector discharge from the Air Force which was disapproved, for reasons which violate the A.F.'s own regs. I am astounded to learn of the intense harassment he has undergone from the F.B.I. We are close friends, and I am trying to help him get legal representation. This is a very interesting case, which will most probably necessitate a trip to Washington, as I said over the phone, around February, at which time I will call you again in advance. I had, however, hoped we could make it earlier, as there are many things we need very much to go over, in detail.

First of all, regarding the tape. I am sorry to learn that the quality of the copy was poor. The original is not excellent, but not as bad as you described. I will bring it with me in Feb. I had rushed in getting that up to you, and thought it was okay. The machine on which it was first recorded, at Bringuier's home, was the cheapest one we could find on Canal St. just minutes before meeting him at his store. The story of how we managed to get this interview is an amusing one in and of itself, a comedy of errors, all of which turned out for the good.

It was a small machine, and so the interview was done on four sides of two separate reels, with a break in between for some Argentine coffee, which made me and my two friends ill. When I dubbed it for your copy on a larger reel, I put both sides of each smaller reel onto one side of the larger reel, which left some space blank on each side. I hope this clears that up. The copy you have, I am certain, is the uncut, unedited version.

So you therefore have the full interview, I am sure. But there were interesting remarks made, in both languages, during the conversation over coffee (which caused cholera morbis later; check your Funk & Wagnall's for that!), and in the ride back from his house to his store.

He did not give us the name of his relative with the stock market co. who called to tell him JFK was shot, and we had decided not to press him in case he would get suspicious. (He has, I'm sure, since realized that we are "Garrison agents".) I also did not ask him to name the other individual who tried to sell his story to the Picayune, but I assume it was Quiroga.

In each of these cases, and in several others, he was a bit coy, and difficult to pump, as in the matter of the camps; we had to ask him carefully several leading questions before he even admitted their existence. He is very wary about that, from experience. From his point of view, the smartest thing would be to shut up, but he craves publicity. Also, as you know, he told a blatant lie, probably thought up spontaneously, to explain the FBI agents wanting to see Oswald privately. He said Cubans consider any plain-clothesman an FBI agent, but he wasn't really sure he was. In his testimony, he says the two men "identified themselves as agents of the FBI" (10H 50).

We did manage to get only the enclosed two pamphlets from Bringuier, and this is the only literature he would give us. I doubt we will be able to get anymore.

I am surprised to learn that he lied to us about the first time he met Oswald. This is one of many things I look forward to discussing with you in detail. Also, I want to find out why you say Arcacha and Oswald could not have known each other in N.O. I have always believed they were close friends, and recall a lot of evidence they were together, not just David Lewis' statement. This, of course, is Garrison's prime contention in his book, that Arcacha was a member of the N.O. "intelligence community", sent LHO by the Dallas i.c., which included Mrs. Paine and DeMorenschildt. And I can remember back when I was in the office that DeM. was being considered as a suspect, and I think a case was being prepared against him. I agree that Marina's sex life is personal and irrelevant; I brought it up only with regard to the FBI's apparent knowledge and understanding of her emotional dependence on Mrs. Paine which apparently resulted in Marina's phony stories re Oswald's attempts on Walker and Nixon. I assume ^{Ruth} planted all this in her head, a strange girl in a foreign country, terrified by the Secret Service. Your book is the only treatment of the subject I have ever seen which encompassed the real problem.

I did receive your great letter of 12/16 before leaving for Christmas vacation, and appreciate very much your last three letters in spite of your sore shoulder and hope by now it is healing.

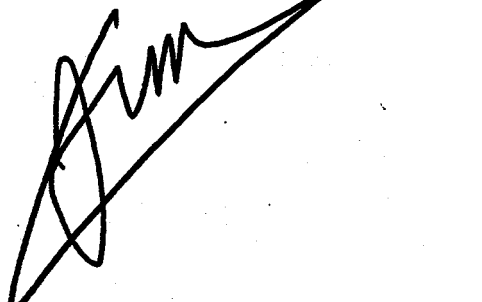
I did not mean to pour cold water all over your idea regarding the Black Panthers in N.O. It relates basically to the same direction begun at the time of the assassination, and I am sure the results would be fruitful. Let me know exactly what you want and next time I get down to N.O. (which may be soon), I'll do my best to get it.

I have saved the best for last, I think. Herein enclosed is a copy of my letter to the Attorney General, which you will find interesting. I have just sent it, as I think I mentioned before I was going to do, to Fensterwald for review, and he has just let me know he has sent it on. If we get a negative reply, and are able to prove it unreasonable, the two Congressional committees I mentioned before will make an initial inquiry, the preliminary step before a full investigation and/or hearings, which is what I want. I would welcome your comments, suggestions, and/or criticism.

On this matter, too, let me say that if I ever do or say anything publicly or privately which embarrasses you or disturbs you in any way, inasmuch as we are close friends, please feel free to jack me up, and let me know swiftly. I am also well aware that much of what has been written already has been stolen or plagiarized from you, in one way or another, perhaps not in every instance maliciously or even intentionally, and if I ever appear to be doing so accidentally, please call this to my attention immediately. I will keep you informed of everything I am doing, also, which will prevent this. I look forward to working with you more on this and I believe we are close to our goal.

See you in Feb., I hope. Let me know what you think about letter to A.G.

Your friend,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely "Jim", written in dark ink. The signature is slanted and has a long, sweeping underline that extends across the bottom right of the page.